**Important Information for Parents**

**Regarding Upper Level Foreign Language Study**

* **How many years of Foreign Language should my child take in high school?**

It’s not enough to just plan for a high school graduation requirements. Students also need to ensure that they have enough foreign language credits to be admitted to a college as well as satisfy university degree requirements.

* Unit Five High School Graduation Requirement:
	+ Two years of foreign language, art, music or vocational education
* College Admission Requirement (*varies by university; visit each individual college website for specific guidelines)*
	+ Illinois State University
		- Two years of one foreign language or fine arts
* University of Illinois
* Two years of one foreign language required, four years recommended
* Division I Athletes
* Four years of additional core courses (this may include a foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy)
* Division II Athletes
* Three years of additional core courses (this may include a foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy)
* College Degree Requirement (*varies by university, visit each individual college website for specific guidelines)*
	+ Illinois State University
		- Statement of Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree: General Education requirements, general requirements for graduation and knowledge of a foreign language as demonstrated by successful completion of LAN 115 (or the equivalent).
		- All graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences must satisfy a foreign language requirement that may be met by: three years of one foreign language in high school or completion of the second semester or higher of college-level foreign language with a grade of C or better or equivalent proficiency as determined by examination.
* University of Illinois
	+ - If you are a student in a Sciences and Letters major, Secondary Education or Specialized Curricula for biochemistry, geology or physics, you must demonstrate proficiency in a non-primary language in one of the following ways:
			* Before graduation you must satisfactorily complete two years of college study or four years of high school courses in a single non-primary language.
			* If you have completed three years of a single non-primary language in high school, you may either:
				+ continue studying that language and complete the fourth-semester course or
				+ begin another language and complete the third-semester course

**\*TRANSLATION: Credits equaling four years of high school foreign language will ensure the attainment of entrance and exit requirements at most institutions.**

* **What are the benefits of enrolling in Level V, Advanced Placement Foreign Language?**

**AP Foreign Language classes are honors level courses and students receive weighted credit.**

Just by taking the course and not necessarily the exam, students can satisfy many of the previously mentioned college degree requirements. If students elect to take the AP exam in May, in addition to satisfying their graduation requirements they can earn college credit, which will potentially save thousands of dollars. The cost of an AP exam is approximately $90. The following information shows how much money a score of 3, 4 or 5 will save at two local universities.

Illinois State University / $321 per credit hour

French, German, Spanish Language AP Exam

3 earns 8 credit hours saves approximately $2,478

4, 5 earns 12 credit hours saves approximately $3,762

University of Illinois / approximately $618 per credit hour

French Language

3 earns 8 credit hours saves approximately $4,854

4 earns 10 credit hours saves approximately $6,090

5 earns 13 credit hours saves approximately $7,944

German Language

3 earns 8 credit hours saves approximately $4,854

4, 5 earns 11 credit hours saves approximately $6,708

Spanish Language

4 earns 7 credit hours saves approximately $4,236

5 earns 10 credit hours saves approximately $6,090

Visit this website to see how much credit a particular university will offer on all AP exams:

 <http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp>

* **What else looks good on a college application?**

The foreign language department honors the academic achievements of our students each spring at our annual Foreign Language Honors Night. Teachers select students to be the Foreign Language Student of the Year for each class and level. Level IV and V students who have maintained an A average in all of their foreign language coursework are inducted into our nationally recognized/registered language honor societies:

French: Société Honoraire de Français of the American Association of Teachers of French

German: Delta Epsilon Phi of the American Association of Teachers of German

Spanish: Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese